

**ATEL Committee Meeting**  
**Public Utilities Commission**  
**March 14, 2013**  
**9:00 AM**

**Attendees:**

**Denise Corson, James Litvack,, Courtenay Petracca, Ellen Lenox Smith , Jim Lanni, Charles Brown, Harry Mancoll, Laurie Duffy, Jeanne Panarace, Joe Pereira, and CART Reporter.**

- 1. Minutes were reviewed and accepted.**
- 2. ATEL Committee update- Laura N. Peterson had to resign from the committee due to a long term conflict with our Thursday morning's meetings, and Jeanne Panarace has accepted the vacant position. We have still not had any success filling our one vacancy which is a representative from the Senate. Ellen mentioned she has many contacts at the State House, and asked Denise to forward the names of the senators that declined, and she would try to see if she could find an interested senator.**
- 3. Project Endeavor/Sprint CradlePoint- Project Endeavor is a program of CSD, funded by a two year contract with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This program focuses on providing deaf and hard of hearing Americans with access to broadband or high speed internet through discounted internet service plans and internet devices. In December, the**

program added a new service/product, for people who do not already have Internet access; qualified seniors can receive the CapTel 840i plus high speed broadband Internet service through Sprint for just \$50 (\$25 a year for a 2-year plan). This service/product expires 3/7/13.

The internet service is provided by Sprint through a Integrated Broadband Router that retails for about \$400, and internet service for about \$50 per month. Denise has installed a few of these, and states that it is a great temporary fix for people who don't have the internet; however, very pricey for people that would like this option, since now the service/program expired. Joe stated that Cox does have a similar product, a Gateway Modem/Router, which is about \$30 total per month for the Modem/Router with internet service, but could save \$10 with a bundle.

4. Federal Communications Commission Temporary Requirements ruling due to the misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service (CTS)- due to the recent months sky rocking minutes used by IP CTS, growth that if unchecked , could exacerbate the potential harm to the Fund and the legitimate users of TRS. Per a recent FCC ruling, for the next 180 days all new users of IP-based captioned telephone services need to be registered to ensure that the captioning service is used by people who truly need the service. The FCC's goal is to protect the service funds from accidental use by people who do not need captions to communicate over the phone. Also, effective March 7, 2013 you will need to press the Captions on button to turn on captions at the start of every call; the captions will no longer come on automatically. Furthermore, you can no longer

**offer referral for rewards for individuals to receive an IP Captioned Telephone.**

## **5. New ATEL devices: Clarity Fortissimo, Clarity XLC3.4 , and Clarity XLC2-**

**„« The Fortissimo retails for about \$550, and another \$100 for the remote pendant. This device replaces the RC200 speakerphone that has been in the state program with no changes for many years. Some of the new features of this phone is Talking Caller ID, automatic answer designated phone numbers, automatic hang up, built in microphone in the pendant, quick dial one emergency contact. accessories can be attached to the pendant, so the disabled individual can be mobile and not attached directly to the phone.**

**„« The Clarity XLC3.4 , and Clarity XLC2 are both cordless phone with amplification up to 50dbls. Also, both have rechargeable AAA batteries in the base and handset, so easy to replace if necessary, and will work if power goes out (as long as phone service is working). These phones also have Talking CID and tone control**

## **6. Open Discussion:**

**„« Courtenay discussed the Hamilton CapTel Call Me #, which is your personal phone number that makes it possible to receive captioned calls on your PC/Mac, Smartphone and Tablet. If you give out this new number, when you answer your next call you will get captions. You can login to your Hamilton CapTel account, visit "Receive Calls" and click on the Call Me # link.**

**„« The CDHH has resubmitted their bill from last year, and there was a hearing on Tuesday. They are looking for \$80k annually, and if**

**passes we would most likely have to increase the relay surcharge on phone bills by a few cents per month.**

**7. The time and date of next year's quarterly meetings are scheduled at 9AM- 11AM at the PUC: June 13th, September 12th, and December 12th.**